

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1847.

The public solicitude respecting Gen. TAYLOR, so far from abating, seems to increase as uncertainty about him is prolonged. Therefore, in the absence of definite information, after an interval of nearly a week's suspense, we present to our readers the most authentic data we can gather for speculative conclusions. And first as to the character and amount of the forces which composed Gen. Taylor's command. On this point we find in the *Union* of yesterday morning the following facts, which, though not very clear, may furnish the means of an approximate estimate of the number of troops with the General at Agua Nueva:

"We have been permitted to examine a statement prepared at the office of the Adjutant General of the Army, showing, as nearly as can be ascertained, the amount of force left under the orders of General Taylor after the withdrawal of a part of the army of occupation for service under General Scott. The statement embraces the regular troops left under the command of General Taylor, together with the remnants of volunteers called out in November, 1846, of three which are known to have already arrived on the Rio Grande. There can be little if any doubt, indeed, that they all reached Matamoros before the 23d instant.

"According to this statement, the aggregate of force, both regular and volunteer, under the orders of General Taylor, as shown upon the muster-rolls, is 13,910. Of these, 1,122 are regular troops; 9,288 are volunteers of the Texas of May and June last; making a total of 9,374 men, exclusive of the new volunteer regiments. But it is supposed that of these 9,374, not more than about 8,000 certainly should be counted as effective. It is probable, indeed, that of these troops in the field, the effective force may not exceed 7,500. To this number, however, must be added the new regiments of volunteers called out in November, 1846, amounting to 4,536. Of these not more than 4,000 can probably be reckoned as effective. The whole actual effective force, therefore, under the command of Gen. Taylor, is not far from 12,000.

"The same statement exhibits also, so far as is known, the distribution of these troops (exclusive of the new regiments) along the line of the Rio Grande from the Brazos to Camargo, and thence along the line of operations to Monterey and Agua Nueva. From this part of the statement it appears that there are at the posts on the Rio Grande, including Brazos Island, Point Isabel, Fort Brown, Matamoros, Camargo, and Mier, a total of 1,434 troops. Of these, 543 are at Camargo; 598 are at Matamoros and Fort Brown on the other side of the river. But the new regiments must have already reinforced some if not all of these posts; and the number of troops now at Camargo is probably not less than 1,500. The garrison at Monterey numbers 1,327 troops, with forty pieces of artillery. Between the posts on the Rio Grande and Monterey, at Torero, Punta Aguada, Seralvo, and Marina, there are about 700 troops; and the remainder of the force, as above stated, is supposed to be at Agua Nueva, (the headquarters of Gen. Taylor when last heard from officially,) at Saltillo, and at the Pass of the Rinconada."

From the same and other sources we collate and republish the following letters, official and unofficial, presenting the latest accounts from the vicinity of Gen. TAYLOR's camp:

From an Officer to the Baltimore American.

SATILLO, FEBRUARY 20, 1847.
Affairs here are drawing to a point. It is well ascertained now that Santa Anna is at Incarnacion, fifty miles distant, with 17,000 men and 19 pieces of artillery. It is my opinion that we shall have a fight before the week elapses, and no one can venture to predict what will be the result. We shall have, when General Marshall arrives from Monterey with the Ohio and Kentucky Regiments, some 12,000 men, of which we have 10,000 at present. Our command is encamped at Agua Nueva, eighteen miles in advance of this on the San Luis road, and is constituted as follows: Four companies of the 1st and 2d dragoons, under May and Stein; the Arkansas mounted regiment under Yell; the Kentucky mounted regiment under Humphrey Marshall; one company of Texas rangers under McCulloch; Captain Washington's battery of eight pieces, (2d artillery); Captain Sherman's battery of four pieces, (3d artillery); Captain Bragg's battery of four pieces, (3d artillery); two Illinois regiments and two Indiana regiments under Brig. Gen. Lane.

The Ohio and Kentucky regiments are expected to-day, under Marshall. Our battery is in a redoubt commanding the town. Major Warren's battalion of four companies of Illinois troops defends the town, which will, it is supposed, be attacked, while General Taylor fights the main force at Agua Nueva. The supplies have all been removed to a range of hills in the neighborhood of the Cathedral, which will be occupied by us.

Santa Anna's army, I am confidently informed by Mexicans, is fully prepared, and if the volunteers stand by our artillery we shall whip him. The Governor of the town has been officially notified of their approach, and things were a serious aspect when they were considered. May and Stein and two pieces of artillery are out now feeling them, and we shall probably hear his report this evening.

From a Gentleman of the Medical Staff.

SATILLO, FEBRUARY 20, 1847.
I am writing you, it is said, on the eve of a battle. The enemy is in force on the right. Santa Anna has informed his citizen soldiers (his regulars, 18,000) that our forces are ample and profuse, and all is at their command—only rush to arms; and from all accounts, right well have they obeyed the call. We are making all kinds of preparation.

Majors Dix and Coffey ten days since brought up 200,000 dollars. Majors Coffey and Dix have been carrying on a silver last night, with some seven wagon loads of gold and silver. Ninety wagons, loaded with provisions from Monterey, and intended for Gen. Taylor's camp, were ordered to be parked in the main plaza, and not to be unloaded. I was told that there were on hand 180,000 rations, besides some 60,000 pounds of beef, and that the stores were in good order. Would not all this be a nice little prize for Santa Anna, saying nothing of the officers' baggage, money, &c., six hundred wagons and equipments, four parks of artillery complete and any quantity of medical supplies, hospital stores, &c., and ammunition in the greatest abundance. Just think of it! I'll dole no more on a theme to me so unpleasant. But we must and will whip them.

I was out at camp the day before yesterday, and stayed all night. In the course of conversation with Gen. Taylor, I asked him if he could realize that Gen. Santa Anna was really approaching with such an army. The old "war horse" shrugged his shoulders and replied, "Let them come; they will go back a good deal faster." He has no fear.

Brevet Lieut. Col. May, with 400 men and a section of artillery, was ordered out to-day to make a reconnaissance and dislodge a body of cavalry, said to be encamped about ten miles distant on the San Luis Potosi road.

P. S. The express is going. I have only time to say that May has been forced to retire, with the loss of at least one officer, supposed to be killed, and ten men. Gen. Taylor has returned to the heights above the town, and will there await the attack of the enemy. All is excitement and bustle, and some confusion.

SATILLO, FEBRUARY 21, 1847.
We are all well, and in expectation of a fight to-morrow. Santa Anna is close by, and with 17,000 men. Gen. Taylor's force is about 5,000. We have possession of the town, and we are well fortified. I will write the result if I am alive.

From Gen. Taylor to the War Department.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, AGUA NUEVA, FEBRUARY 21, 1847.
Colonel Morgan's regiment (2d Ohio) will concentrate at Seralvo, and move forward to Monterey with as little delay as practicable. Colonel Curtis's regiment (3d Ohio) will be relieved at Camargo by the first regiment of the new volunteers that may have arrived at that point, when it will move forward in like manner to Monterey. Colonel Drake's regiment (1st Indiana) will be relieved at Matamoros by the first regiment of the new regiments that may be there, at the mouth of the river, or the Brazos, on the receipt of this order, when it will likewise move forward as above. The remaining four regiments of the new volunteers will proceed with as little delay as practicable to Monterey. In marching from Camargo, the troops will in no case move in less than a regiment, and will hold themselves ready to repel at attack upon the road, their commanders exercising the greatest vigilance, particularly in the camps at night, parking their wagons for defence. They will take care to be well supplied with ammunition before leaving Camargo.

By order of Major General Taylor.

W. W. BLISS, Adj. General.
[Endorsement on the above order.—Captain Crossman will please furnish copies of this order to such of the new volunteer regiments as may arrive at Camargo. Seralvo is to be broken up for the present. Colonel Morgan has been instructed to destroy such stores as he cannot take with him.]

Official Letter from a Paymaster at Monterey.

MONTEREY, MEXICO, FEB. 22, 1847.
GENERAL: We have had quite an exciting time here for the last few days. It has been ascertained beyond doubt that Santa Anna, with a large force, has been advancing on Saltillo to attack General Taylor, who has been encamped twenty miles in advance of Saltillo, at the pass of Agua Nueva. We have also had it reported that General Urea was advancing on this place with 5,000 cavalry from towards Victoria, and we have been very busily engaged preparing to receive him. We have but two regiments of volunteers here, but the Black Fort or Citadel is so far advanced towards completion, that I feel confident, if they will give us two or three more days, that we shall be ready to repel any force brought against us. We have a large supply of provisions, and in six months, for our present garrison, and the supply of ammunition is unbounded; and in one day more we shall have our magazines perfectly secure. We have some seven or eight pieces in each of the batteries, some thirty in all mounted. We have sent all our funds to the fort, and have them secured in one of the magazines.

They write us from Saltillo, under date of the 21st, that Gen. Taylor has fallen back on Saltillo, and will fight the enemy on the hill immediately west of the city. This position is flanked by two redoubts, and we are rejoiced that he has taken it, as we now feel confident of the result.

Captain Prentiss's company of volunteers left here yesterday morning with two 18 and two 8 pounders from Saltillo. So the General's regular force will consist of five companies of artillery (3 light and two heavy) and two squadrons of dragoons.

The mail leaves to-day twenty-four hours in advance of the regular mail, in consequence of its containing an order from Gen. Taylor for reinforcements.

From Captain Montgomery, at Monterey.

"MONTEREY, FEBRUARY 23—11 A. M.
"Gen. Taylor has been attacked in his position by a force of 25,000 men, and the engagement is still going on. When the courier left, Santa Anna's ultimatum was, 'surrender'—Gen. Taylor's reply, 'come and take us.'"

There has been no communication between Monterey and Camargo since the 23d ultimo.

The following letters from General TAYLOR disclose his reasons for taking a position at Agua Nueva:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, AGUA NUEVA, 18 miles south of Saltillo, February 7, 1847.

SIR: I changed my headquarters to this place on the 5th instant, bringing forward, in the first instance, Lieutenant Colonel May's squadron of cavalry, two batteries of artillery (Shannon's and Bragg's), and the regiment of Mississippi riflemen. Yesterday the second Kentucky and second and third Indiana regiments came up, and will be joined in a day or two by the other troops in and near Saltillo, except the small garrison of seven companies left in that town.

Although advised by Major General Scott to evacuate Saltillo, I am confirmed in my purpose of holding not only that point, but this position in its front. Not to speak of the pecuniary moral effect upon volunteer troops of falling back from points which we have gained, there are powerful military reasons for occupying this extremity of the pass rather than the other. The security of water and supplies for a long distance in front compels the enemy either to risk an engagement in the field or to hold himself aloof from us; while, if we fall back on Monterey, he could establish himself strongly at Saltillo, and be in position to annoy more effectively our flanks and our communications.

I have no intelligence from the interior more recent or as authentic than that heretofore communicated. There is understood to be no considerable force in our front, nor is it likely that any serious demonstration will be made in this direction. The frequent alarms since the middle of December seem to have been without substantial foundation. I am happy to hear that the population of Saltillo is fast returning to the city. Under the judicious management of Major Warren, a discreet officer, of Illinois volunteers, who commands in the town, it is hoped that the people may remain quietly in their homes.

I respectfully enclose copies of statements showing the names of the officers and men recently captured by the enemy, as reported in my despatch No. 11.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Major General U. S. Army, commanding.
The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, AGUA NUEVA, February 14, 1847.

SIR: Since my last despatch of February 7th, the occupation of this position has been completed by the arrival of Brigadier General Wool with the new regiments of volunteers, who are now conveniently encamped, and can readily take up excellent defensive positions when necessary. Every thing is quiet in and about Saltillo.

I am urging supplies forward as rapidly as practicable from the rear, and from the direction of Seralvo, for, if joined by a sufficient force of the new regiments, I will be able to take advantage of any opportunity that may offer to create a diversion in favor of Major General Scott's operations. Of those new regiments, none have yet been reported to me, nor do I know how many I may calculate upon for service in this quarter.

I can communicate no very recent intelligence from the interior. Up to the 26th of January, the Mexican Congress had done nothing to supply the wants of the army, which had received nothing for January, and but half the necessary funds for December. Rumors reach our camp from time to time of the projected advance of a Mexican force upon this position, but I think such a movement improbable. The command is held at all times in readiness for the enemy.

I respectfully enclose a continuation of the list of killed, wounded, and missing incident to the operations before Monterey—as complete as it can be made from the records in my possession. These remain to be reported to the War Department, and I am confident that they will be well managed. I have also enclosed a list of killed and wounded of the 4th Army, 31 killed and wounded of the 2d (Col. Wool's) regiment of Texas mounted volunteers. These few remaining names, it is presumed, can be supplied from the regular returns or muster rolls on file in your office.

Last official despatch from Washington, dated the 10th January. The mail of yesterday, which brought Washington newspapers as late as the 15th, had nothing from your office.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Major General U. S. Army, commanding.
The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.—Companies F and H, Captains GARDNER and PLUNKER, of the 1st Regiment United States Infantry, left New Orleans on the 16th instant for Brazos Island. Their original destination was to join Gen. Scott's division of the army, but, in consequence of the recent intelligence from the seat of war, their destination was altered. Col. Hamtramck and Adjutant T. P. August, of the Virginia regiment, left New Orleans at the same time.

The bomb-ketch *Stromboli* sailed from Boston on Friday morning for the Gulf of Mexico. She has been made very strong, to carry a gun weighing over 15,000 pounds, mounted on a carriage of 2,000 pounds. Her officers are, Commander Wm. S. Walker; Lieutenants, Jonathan R. Tucker and S. C. Sartori; Acting Master, Edward S. Nichols; Assistant Surgeon, Rice; Midshipman, Jonathan McLean Murphy; Captain's Clerk, Mr. Abrams. The crew consists of forty hands, all told.

The President of Hayti, JEAN BAPTISTE RICHIE, died at Port-au-Prince on the morning of the 27th ultimo. He arrived there on the morning of the 23d, from his tour through the North. He suffered much from illness during his journey, but attended to affairs till the last. He walked round his room and transacted business the morning of his death. After signing some public documents he swooned. Recovering from this, he again applied himself to business, and, swooning a second time, he expired. In two days more he would have completed the second year of his presidency.

[N. O. Picayune, March 15.]

The total value of real and personal estate in the city and county of New York, as recently assessed, is \$71,244,952. The amount of tax which this yields to the city revenue is \$2,520,179.

AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS.—Within a short period very earnest applications for Christian teachers have been made to the Missionaries of the Madura station, in India, from thirty-four different cities or villages. And it is known that for some years past solicitation has been made by the Board in the Eastern countries for the supply of instructors to surrounding districts, have been constantly multiplying.

In view of such indications of Providence in that and other lands, the Board have recently appointed twenty new Missionaries in addition to the companies sent out within a few months past. To meet the exigencies of the Boston churches connected with the Society have this year made very liberal advances on their former annual contributions. And it is believed there will be a corresponding liberality in other portions of the land.

It is also ascertained that, happily to meet the increasing calls from abroad, there is at present a great increase of the missionary spirit in various Theological Schools. Of those connected with the Union Seminary at New York, twenty-five have signified their willingness to enter the foreign field of ministerial labor on the completion of their preparatory studies.

[Boston Journal.]

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The Official Correspondence relating to the prosecution of the Mexican war, the publication of which we commence in this day's paper, will be found entitled to every reader's careful perusal. As the responsibility for this war deepens every day, it is fit that the public should be as fully advised in regard to the plans for its prosecution as it is in regard to its origin. Therefore, voluminous as the correspondence is, we shall place before our readers all of its material parts (all of which the intrinsic interest, or justice to the Government or to our military officers may require) as rapidly as its publication in the official paper will enable us to do.

SENATOR BUTLER AT HOME.

From the "South Carolinian" we learn that a large concourse of citizens assembled at the Court-house in Columbia to welcome home Judge BUTLER, the Senator from South Carolina, on his return from Washington. A public meeting being organized, resolutions were adopted, which, though no more than just to his merits, could not but be gratifying to him. To these he responded with his usual frankness and point. Among other things worthy of note, "he adverted to the proscription, by public meetings in Georgia, by which he with others had been excommunicated from what is termed the Democratic party. This (he said) would not change his course. Democracy was a term of doubtful and fallacious import—he preferred the name of Republican. There were some securities in the guarantees of an organized Republic, none in an irresponsible Democracy." He spoke at some length, tracing with clearness the distinctions between a constitutional Republic and the turbulent action of irresponsible masses.

The elucidation which he gave of the pretended persecution, by the Senate, of the Editor of the Washington "Union" is, by odds, the best we have seen:

"He alluded to the circumstances of Mr. Ritchie's expulsion for a libel upon the Senate; declared that the only arguments brought forward by his champions were, 'Father Ritchie and the liberty of the Press'—the liberty of the Press and Father Ritchie.' No other. 'And what did his expulsion amount to?' (said Mr. B.) Why, simply a removal from the benches back of the Senators to a seat in the gallery, among the prettiest women I have ever seen, and, here, half of the time, I would much rather have been than in my own seat.' And, as to liberty of the Press, if abuse makes a free one, the Union certainly is as free in that respect as any one I ever saw."

The Irish Relief Committees of Washington and Alexandria have engaged the barque *General Harrison*, Captain SMITH, to convey a cargo of breadstuffs to Ireland. The vessel is now loading at Alexandria for immediate dispatch, and further contributions, either in money or provisions—corn, meal, flour, or ship bread—will be thankfully received by the committee of either city.

Major General BUTLER, of the army, arrived in this city last evening, and took lodgings at Brown's hotel.

The *New Orleans Picayune* of the 11th instant has a letter from Major GAINES, dated San Luis Potosi, February 10, detailing the circumstances of his surprise and capture. He and his party (97 in number) left San Luis for the capital on the 15th ultimo, the officers supplied with horses, and will doubtless be allowed their parole on their arrival. The following, from Major G.'s letter, describes SANTA ANNA in state:

"On our route here, we met the renowned Gen. SANTA ANNA, in a large clumsy carriage drawn by eight mules, two behind, two in front, and four in the centre. I had a short conference with him, in which, after asking me a few questions concerning our army and generals, and the purpose of my expedition to Incarnacion, he gave me assurances of good treatment whilst prisoners, and told us we should be sent to the city of Mexico, and be hoped shortly to our own country. His appearance made a favorable impression upon our officers and men."

MR. CALHOUN'S ANNEXATION POLICY.

The "Union" comments on Mr. CALHOUN's agency in the annexation of Texas, and thus speaks:

"Certainly there were, in various parts of the Union, many very well informed persons—old and staunch friends of annexation—who considered that the agency of Mr. Calhoun in that transaction might have been quite as well dispensed with; that the method of annexation adopted and unsuccessfully tried by him was far from being the best and safest method; that he unnecessarily and unwisely narrowed the grounds of policy upon which he placed the measure; that he clogged it with many difficulties and perils not naturally belonging to it; that, in some of the incidents of his course in the matter, he failed to adopt any very scrupulously strict construction of the constitutional limits of Executive authority; and, in one word, that the Texas business was not well managed. It is substantially one of Mr. Calhoun's hands into the hands of Congress. Then, indeed, in a mode quite different from the mode adopted by Mr. Calhoun, annexation was consummated; and, in the just and legitimate triumph of the achievement, at last happily accomplished, comparatively little attention was paid to any errors which might appear in the course of a statesman whose plan of annexation had most signally failed, even at the moment when annexation in itself was most popular."

There can be no doubt but that "many very well informed persons" did think all this. But why has it never been said by the Union before now? Why has that print, entertaining all these opinions, and filled with these thoughts, just found language to express its ideas? That is a question which the Union ought to answer and satisfactorily explain. Mr. Calhoun will see that he has been acting for and with men, all along, who have secretly condemned his whole course and policy.—*Alexandria Gaz.*

Five thousand dollars in specie, belonging to the United States, has been stolen, it is said, in Michigan, while those who had charge of it were conveying it from Chicago to Detroit.

Mr. CLAY left New Orleans on the 16th instant for his residence in Kentucky, intending to stop a few days at Natchez.

The Boston papers state that the United States ship-of-war *Jamestown*, Capt. R. B. Forbes, with a cargo of breadstuffs for Cork, is to sail on Saturday (this day). The committee at Boston will probably have to freight one or two merchant vessels to carry the remainder of the contributions in their hands.

Com. DEKAY, of the *Macedonian*, to sail from New York, has determined to take a limited number of passengers on board that ship for one hundred dollars each. Seventy-five dollars of the passage money will be received in full or meal for the sufferers in Ireland, and twenty-five dollars for cabin stores.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Thursday, at about two o'clock in the afternoon, as the Newark train was going to New York, when on Bergen Hill the axle-tree of one of the forward cars broke, which, passing under the wheels of the following car, turned it over. Owing to the presence of mind and energy of the conductor, Mr. Martin, the passengers were quieted, and we are informed, not one was hurt. This is the worst spot on the line, as on both sides were steep precipices, and the road was barely wide enough for the passenger to get out of the upset car. There was a shower of rain at the time.—*Sun.*

From statistical documents presented before Congress it appears that the capital employed in the manufacture of paper in the United States is \$18,000,000; the number of mills 700; the annual product \$170,000,000; and the number of operatives employed 100,000.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

We understand that the building committee of this Institution contracted, on Friday, 19th, for the erection of their building.

The plan adopted, out of thirteen different designs submitted, was, as our readers already know, that of Mr. JAMES RENWICK, Jun., architect of Grace Church, Calvary Church, the Church of the Puritans, and other structures creditable to his professional genius in and about the city of New York.

An outline of its accommodations and extent is given in a note to the "Report of the Committee on Organization," recently published by the Institution, as follows:

"It comprises a museum 200 feet by 50; a library 90 feet by 50; a gallery of art 125 feet long; two lecture rooms, of which one is capable of containing an audience of 800 to 1,000 persons, and the other is connected with the laboratory, together with several smaller rooms. The style selected is the later Norman, or rather Lombard, as it prevailed in the twelfth century chiefly in Germany, Normandy, and in Southern Europe, immediately preceding the introduction of the Gothic."

To the above we may add that the building has that irregularity of plan which characterizes the Norman and Gothic styles; rendering those much more capable than the Grecian of convenient adaptation to modern purposes; and presenting to the eye, in the different aspects of a building, a pleasing variety. There are in all nine towers of various shapes and sizes; several of them small, to be used as elevators and to receive flues, &c.; the principal tower on the north front being 145 feet high.

The successful competitors for the contract are JAMES DIXON & Co., their bids, both for marble and freestone finish, being the lowest that were received. Mr. Dixon is known in this city as one of the contractors on the General Post Office, so much admired both for its beauty of design and solidity of execution, and bears the reputation of being enterprising, industrious, responsible, and faithful as a builder. He is a resident of this city. There is, we learn, associated with him Mr. Gilbert Cameron, of New York, well known there as having creditably completed many extensive building contracts.

The Board of Regents had authorized, for the completion of the building and for the furnishing and fitting up of the same, (including museum cases, book-cases, &c.) an expenditure not exceeding two hundred and forty-two thousand dollars; being the amount set apart in the act of Congress organizing the Institution for the erection of suitable buildings. The bid of Messrs. Dixon & Co. for the entire building, including furniture and fitting up, and the amount at which the contract with them was closed, is two hundred and five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, being nearly thirty-seven thousand dollars within the amount which the building committee had authority to expend.

The result is highly creditable to the architect: the contract being taken at more than twenty thousand dollars below the estimates submitted by him to the Board of Regents.

The material adopted for the external walls of the building is a freestone of approved durability, from the vicinity of Seneca creek, on the Potomac, some twenty or twenty-five miles above the city. It is from the new red sandstone formation, the same which has furnished, in New Jersey, the beautiful freestone used in the erection of Trinity Church, New York. Its color is a pinkish or gray, becoming lighter by exposure. It is wholly different in character and quality from the sandstone used for the Capitol, the Patent Office, and the Treasury.

It is easily worked when first quarried, but becomes by exposure, in the course of a year or two, so hard that the best tempered tool will hardly cut it. It resists moisture so effectually that in several aqueducts along the line of the canal, down the face of which water has been trickling incessantly for upwards of twenty years, the marks of the chisel are still as sharp as when first cut. Some of the steps to the Capitol are of this freestone, and no perceptible abrasion can be discovered in these, notwithstanding the long term of years through which they have been subjected to daily wear.

To erect the building of marble instead of freestone would have cost, as shown by the bids, an additional sum of twenty-three thousand five hundred dollars, and, though the entire amount would still have been considerably within that to which the committee were allowed to go in their contract, they considered the difference between the two materials, whether as regards durability or appearance, not sufficient to justify that increase of expenditure. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the freestone of the color selected be not more appropriate for a Norman building than white marble. Be this as it may, we feel assured, from a careful examination of the design, that, executed in the material that has been chosen, it will present an aspect of grave and imposing beauty.

GEN. SCOTT'S MOVEMENTS.—The *Alexandria Gazette* says:

"We have seen a letter from the Island of Lobos, dated the 28th of February, which states that there has been no unreasonable delay in the arrival of transports and munitions of war at that place. They are six weeks later than they ought to have been, and up to the latest dates all the troops had not arrived, and several vessels containing ordnance stores, such as cannon and mortars, were waiting. The expedition to Vera Cruz will consist of about 12,000 troops and probably one hundred sail of all kinds. General Scott, it is said, expects to have boats enough to land five thousand troops at once."

"A letter in the Journal of Commerce states that forty howitzers, capable of discharging forty shells in a minute, have been sent to Vera Cruz, to be used half a mile in the rear of that city. The letter adds: 'They can from that point destroy the town in a few hours, if necessary. If the Mexican army should make a rally Gen. Scott will be ready to receive them. The position also commands the castle—that is, they can throw forty shells every minute into the castle, and at a distance of three-quarters of a mile beyond the range of any gun in the castle. We have also the best engineer officers in the world.'"

The strength of the ice in the North river at Albany may be inferred from the fact that a wagon with a load weighing 1,700 pounds passed over it on Wednesday from Albany to the railroad depot on the opposite side.

We find in the New York Journal of Commerce the following record of a decision made by Judge BETTS, in the United States District Court of New York:

"The United States vs. Walter H. Bidwell.—This was an action brought by the United States Government, under the act of March 3, 1815, to recover a penalty of \$300 for carrying newspapers outside of the mail. The defendant demurred generally, on the ground that the statute did not make it a penal offence.

"Judge Betts decided that section 15th of the act does not repeal or limit the exceptions in the 9th section of the same in relation to newspapers, and that the matters in the declaration alleged against the defendant do not constitute an offence within the true meaning of the said act, and that no penalty has been incurred by the defendant in consequence thereof.

Wherefore it was ordered by the Court that the demurrer be and it be so interposed on the part of the defendant be allowed, and that judgment therein be rendered for defendant."

EDITORS CORRESPONDENCE.

The Stone Mountain of Georgia.—The Southern Traveller—increased facilities.

MESSRS. GALE & SEATON: Hitherto the South has been viewed as possessing but little of interest, except so far as related to its agriculture and commerce. New fields have been opened to view within the past few years that entirely disprove this opinion. The railroad improvements and facilities now rapidly progressing lead us through sections of country that have been inaccessible to the tourist and historian, and void of research to the practical geologist.

The Stone Mountain, situated in De Kalb county, Georgia, is one among the many exciting and interesting spots of creation that must soon command the attention and admiration of the traveller, and vie in close proximity with the finest scenes of northern climes. Indeed, the Niagara, the Hudson, the Natural Bridge, or Mammoth Cave may possess charms and sublimity scarcely surpassed by the Andes, Alps, Vesuvius, Rhine, or Nile; yet the Stone Mountain affords a greater field for speculation to the enlightened tourist than can be imagined, except the eye can scan them integrally. But, as a single spot on our earth, no one scene so grand and variegated as this. The eye may wander over a space of forty miles east and west, and nearly thirty miles north and south, unaided by a telescope, and view Nature as she is, clad in all that richness and beauty that diversified foliage may be able to bestow. Many handsome villages may be seen, and, in one or two points, the sign-boards of hotels may be distinctly read.

There are two fine hotels situated at the foot of the Mountain capable of accommodating one hundred visitors. From this point the visitor proceeds directly up the mountain, in a meandering path, occasionally meeting with rugged and craggy places, and sometimes with a declivity of forty to sixty degrees on an angle. This ascension requires little amount of patience on the part of an invalid to accomplish. Having reached the summit of this gigantic mountain, and sitting down upon the huge rock to breathe, though panting they may be from fatigue, the eyes catch a glimpse of distant hills, ravines, and valleys, that produce an inward joy and indescribable delight, which proves an ample reward for the toil and labor in reaching this lofty place.

The organs of respiration assuming a degree of regularity, the visitor beholds at a single view the handwork of our Great Architect in a thousand scenes—rich, novel, and wonderful—which burst forth upon the excited vision, when they involuntarily exclaim, How beautiful and wondrous are the works of Nature—of Nature's God!

The Kennebec and Yonah Mountains are in full view, one of which being thirty-five miles distant and the other seventy miles. The mind is almost bewildered at the varied scope of country, until, as if suddenly awaking from a sweet reverie, the beholder is disappointed in finding that he is yet to be taxed for his utmost admiration. He gazes ad infinitum upon the chain of irregular hills that break off from the Kennebec, and which take a course from northwest to northeast. We feel lost in admiration in beholding this truly picturesque scenery.

The Tower is one hundred and twenty-five feet in height, to be upon the top of which produces a sensation not to be experienced in any other place on earth. You behold the rain, hail, or snow descending below, whilst above the sky is apparently clear. The setting sun, too, has its beauties, the reflection from which takes the observer for his utmost adoration, whilst all nature around seems to admire the golden hues which delight to glaze the distant hills and valleys, and at the same time emitting an unsurpassable lustre upon the extent of the western horizon. With reflections like these, we are at once constrained to burst forth in our loudest exclamations, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Never before, during my life of touring, have I beheld anything to equal the sublime and beautiful varieties of the vegetable kingdom, the immensity of the rock, its supposed eruptions, ancient marks of fortifications, natural curiosities, the skipping wild goats that inhabit the mountain in immense numbers, together with many other things closely connected with antiquity.

On the mountain proper but little of mother earth is to be seen. Dwarfish cedars and stunted shrubbery may be seen occasionally within fifty or eighty feet of the summit, on all sides excepting the northern, where is only seen the immense rock to the base—the declivity on this side being about eighty degrees. Paths are numerous midway the mountain, where the wearied traveller may regale himself in a thousand curiosities.